CALIFORNIA STATE UNIVERSITY, LONG BEACH VOL. LXVIII, ISSUE 89 | APRIL 12, 2017

CALIFORNIA STATE UNIVERSITY LONG BEACH, LIBRARY ARCHIVES

ENROLLMENT

International graduate enrollment drops

CSULB officials have noticed a 35 percent drop in applications from international students for graduate programs this year.

By Valerie Osier
News Editor

When choosing a college or study abroad program, the first question most parents ask is: "Will my child be safe there?"

Cal State Long Beach officials have seen a 35 percent drop in international applicants for graduate programs this year and Associate Vice President for International Education Jeet Joshee says a negative perception of the political climate in the United States may be playing a big role.

"Safety has always been a concern … with students and parents, one of the top questions is always about safety: How safe is the campus? How safe is Long Beach? And that's normal for any institution, I think," Joshee said. "But what's different this time is what's been happening nationally, forces that we can't control. There's a lot of press coverage internationally. What happens here, in my view, gets covered more overseas."

He estimates that there will be also be a 15 percent drop in enrolled international graduate students this year, which will cause CSULB to lose money. International graduate students pay almost three times the tuition that domestic graduate students pay and because of that, they contribute to the overall budget more than a domestic student does.

Undergraduate international applications have stayed relatively the same as last year, with freshman and transfer applications rising 4 to 5 percent.

While domestic student applications to CSULB have been closed since November, international students had until April 1 to apply to the university.

According to Joshee, when news of shootings, a tense racial climate and controversial executive orders travels overseas, it often resonates with international citizens even more than it does with Americans, painting a picture that the country is dangerous throughout.

"It sends a negative perception of how things are, although we know – day in and day out – it's not that different for us here," Joshee said. "But certainly overseas, the perception is not that great … We know that that is not our society, we know that we welcome everyone,

see **INTL**, page 2

CAMPUS EVENTS

Exercise is medicine at CSULB

The Lauda Lecture preaches exercise as a way to make Long Beach a healthier place to live, work and play.

By Sommer Dalton
Staff Writer

Wellness Week 2017 is well on its way, with the Donald P. Lauda Lecture serving as the kick-off to the festivities Monday evening. The lecture was started with the hopes of using experts to engage campuses in thinking about wellness and how to go about achieving it.

The panel of speakers at the lecture included doctors Robert Sallis and Monica Lounsbery, both of whom touched on topics relating to theme "exercise is medicine."

Dr. Ayla Donlin, one of the Committee Co-chairs, has served as the director of the Life Fit Center at The Beach for 3 years.

"Our vision for Wellness Week was for it to serve as a catalyst to raise the consciousness of wellness on campus," Donlin said. "We want to provide specific resources for how individuals can put wellness into action on a regular bases."

The goal of the panel is to give a global perspective as well as a local perspective on issues such as health, wellness and happiness. The lecture is hoping to create connections both on campus and in the community.

The Lauda Lecture was first integrated into Wellness Week back in 2013. Since then, it has taken off, sparking the interests of students, faculty and staff of all ages.

"Hopefully this lecture and event can give people tangible and practical ways to start to become physically active," Donlin said.

The third speaker at the lecture, Devon Stone, a fifth year kinesiology major at Cal State Long Beach and the vice president of EIM, provided a student's perspective on how fitness shapes not only one's physique, but mentality

see **HEALTH**, page 2

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Photos by Bobby Yagake | Daily 49er

HAPPY HUNTING

The Student Communication Association invited students to decorate eggs at the Academic Services building Tuesday.

The decorated eggs will be hidden around the upper campus quad area today for an Easter Egg Hunt from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.



Student Communication Association president Jorge Rivas and junior member Enrique Rodriguez decorate their Easter eggs at the SCA event Tuesday.

CRIME BLOTTER

Arrests for assault, stalking on CSULB campus

By Adam R. Thomas
Staff Writer

Transient shoves surprised student

A homeless man with a bit of history among Cal State Long Beach's University Police Department ran into trouble again when he pushed a female student just before noon on April 4.

The man, identified as 25-year-old Adrian Drannel Aglugub, was exiting the upper campus convenience store near the bookstore as the female CSULB student entered and tried to move around Aglugub. Aglugub then shoved the student according to the UPD officers who reviewed the incident on security camera footage later.

"She wasn't injured," said Lieutenant Richard Goodwin with the UPD. "It was really, from seeing this [on video] it was more of a . . . 'What?!' I mean if someone walks up to you and pushes you, you're going to be confused. She had that look."

Aglugub was arrested by officers of the UPD shortly thereafter, who was then charged with assault and battery and booked at Long Beach City Jail. Goodwin said that officers at the UPD had stated they had multiple run-ins with Aglugub before and the position of the UPD was to keep the CSULB student body informed about his presence as they pursued a legal restraining order to keep him off of campus.

"What we seek in cases like this when we go to court is what they call a 'stay away' order where a judge actually orders you not to come to our campus," Goodwin said.

Aglugub is described as a white male with black hair, brown eyes, around 5 feet 6 inches and weighing approximately 145 pounds.

Stalker arrested, told not to return to CSULB

A non-student male suspect was arrested after a female student reported to the UPD that he had been threatening and stalking her at Parkside Commons last Thursday.

After taking a call from the female student, the male suspect was found in his car by UPD officers, who arrested him and brought him to the campus police station. There, they cited him for making repeated obscene phone calls, trespassing and loitering on private property – all charges brought by the female victim. The man was then released and given a warning not to return to CSULB, which was only possible due to his non-student status as the case would have otherwise been referred to Judicial Affairs.

According to Goodwin, the two had been in a prior relationship and the female victim had received numerous threatening calls from the male. She had even changed her phone number in order to stop him from calling her.

"The next step in this particular case is to prosecute this guy," Goodwin said. "We've already started the criminal justice system in action by citing him. He will go to court, at which time she will be asked to testify. She can now seek a restraining order, or we can do emergency restraining orders."

Vandalism continues in Parking Structure

A cross-beam and a trashcan were reported as vandalized with a visual design on the third floor of parking structure 3 last Friday. Campus facilities and maintenance were notified about the graffiti and removed it shortly thereafter.

This makes for the fourth case of vandalism on the walls of parking structure 3 since the semester began.

Two reports of stolen license plates

Two cases of missing or potentially stolen front license plates on the CSULB campus were reported to UPD last week.

The first incident occurred last Thursday night when a female victim returned to her vehicle in parking lot 3 near Brotman Hall to discover the missing plate. She reported the theft to the UPD that night around 8.

This was second report of a stolen plate to the UPD that day. An older man who had visited CSULB the day before returned to his residence and discovered that his license plate was missing. The older man had been parked at lot 9 in front of the Engineering Technology building.

"A criminal would steal a license plate so they could put it on [a stolen] car to 'cold plate' the car so it wouldn't come back as stolen," Goodwin said.

U-Locked bike stolen from Beachside

A male student reported that their blue Jamis road bike was stolen from a bike rack at the residential learning center at Beachside on Thursday. The bicycle was last seen by the student when he locked it up with a U-lock around 9 p.m. the previous night. When he returned the next day, he discovered the bike missing and another bicycle in its place.

"I will humble myself because I'm the one who constantly beats the drum about U-locks," Goodwin said. "It sounds like criminals defeated the U-lock and took the bike. Bad guys can get ahold of U-locks and figure out how to defeat them. However, I still advocate for U-locks because as far as the locks out there go, it still seems to be the better one."

INTL

continued from page 1

we value everyone, we celebrate diversity, we celebrate different viewpoints, but that is not how it's understood overseas."

This isn't the only reason why graduate applications have decreased, but Joshee said it is also a big concern for the future if the situation does not improve.

In addition, he said that potential students might be concerned about getting their visas to the US because of President Donald Trump's executive orders placing restrictions on visa applicants.

"You can apply and you can get admitted, but then our consulates might not be as easy to get a visa right before," Joshee said. "... But now the scrutiny is so intense, even the students who would have received their admission and visa papers [before] may not get the visa … There is a concern that: 'If i can't get the visa, why should I go through all the hassle of applying?'"

Joshee clarified that visas have never been guaranteed, even before the executive orders, but if students "did their homework" and got all the right paperwork in order and met the requirements, they would usually get the visas.



Jose De Castro | Daily 49er

A decrease in international student enrollment could potentially cost CSULB money.

Joshee said that CSULB has 52 current students from the six countries Trump placed a travel ban on in March. He said these students are fine because they all have valid student visas, but he still advises them not to travel, especially to their home countries, as many of them have a single entry visa. They are also full-degree seeking students, meaning they are here for their entire degree.

"It's a confusing time for international students with all this negativity," Joshee said. "But Long Beach has always been a very welcoming place for all students, students from any country, any religious, ethnic, nationality backgrounds … that continues to be the case, regardless of what is happening on a national stage."

HEALTH

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and outlook on life as well.

"A lot of my work with the Life Fit Center gives me the opportunity to work amongst a lot of leaders on campus," Stone said.

Stone emphasizes the idea of getting back to a "traditional sense" of what it means to be active. He looks to engage future generations and have them step away from the distractions of social media and technology.

"The overall message of wellness week is inspiring action towards a healthy lifestyle," Stone said. "We are providing opportunities for people to have wellness and health in the forefront of their minds."

An example of this is the flash workouts that have been organized throughout three different days of wellness week.

"Spontaneously seeing people working out may make people go 'oh that's ok to do? We could do that!'" he said.

The Wellness Fair will finish out the week on Wednesday from 11-2 p.m., which will include 30 different vendors. Student organizations will be providing different assessments from fitness, to health risk screenings and posture analyses.

Project Chill will also be there providing students with the comfort of hammocks, frozen treats, doggy love and more.

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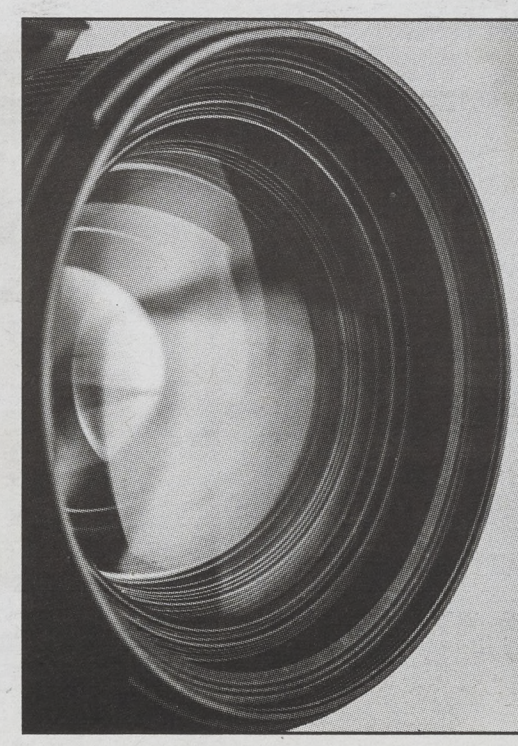
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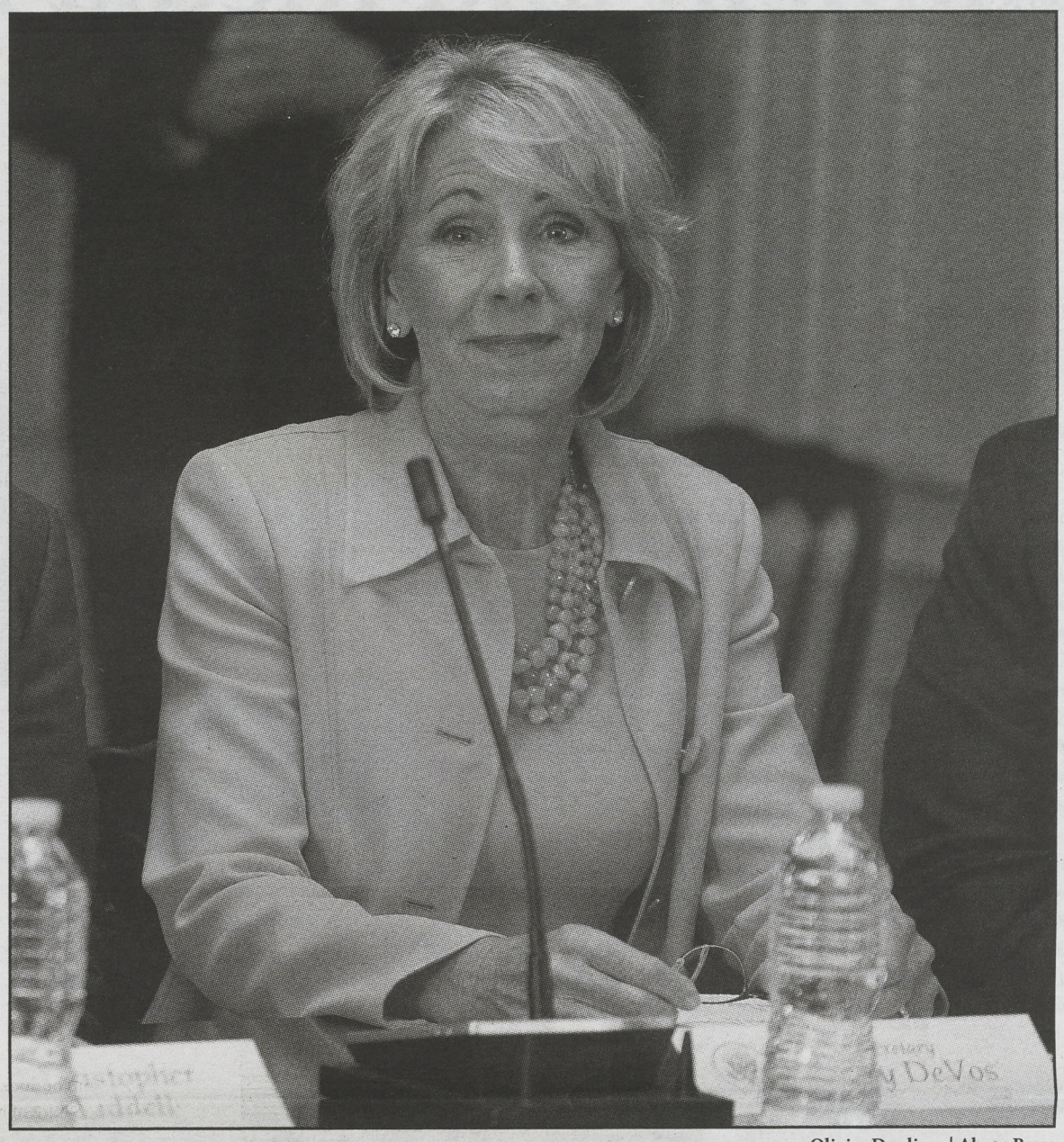
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DEBT

DeVos undoes Obama student loan protections

The protections required the FSA to help borrowers manage their debt.

By Shahien Nasiripour
Bloomberg News



Olivier Douliery | Abaca Press

Education Sec. Betsy DeVos listens as US President Donald Trump speaks during a strategic and policy discussion with CEOs in the State Department Library in the Eisenhower Executive Office Building (EEOB) Tuesday, April 11, 2017 in Washington, D.C.

NEW YORK _ Education Secretary Betsy DeVos on Tuesday rolled back an Obama administration attempt to reform how student loan servicers collect debt.

President Barack Obama issued a pair of memorandums last year requiring that the government's Federal Student Aid office, which services $1.1 trillion in government-owned student loans, do more to help borrowers manage, or even discharge, their debt. But in a memorandum to the department's student aid office, DeVos formally withdrew the Obama memos.

The previous administration's approach, DeVos said, was inconsistent and full of shortcomings. She didn't detail how the moves fell short, and her spokesmen, Jim Bradshaw and Matthew Frendewey, didn't respond to requests for comment.

DeVos' move comes a week after one of the student loan industry's main lobbies asked for Congress' help in delaying or substantially changing the Education Department's loan servicing plans.

In a pair of April 4 letters to leaders of the House and Senate appropriations committees, the National Council of Higher Education Resources said there were too many unanswered questions, including whether the Obama administration's approach would be unnecessarily expensive.

A recent epidemic of student loan defaults and what authorities describe as systematic mistreatment of borrowers prompted the Obama administration, in its waning days, to force the FSA office to emphasize how debtors are treated, rather than maximize the amount of cash they can stump up to meet their obligations.

Obama's team also sought to reduce the possibility that new contracts would be given to companies that mislead or otherwise harm debtors. The current round of contracts will terminate in 2019, and among three finalists for a new contract is Navient Corp.

In January, state attorneys general in Illinois and Washington, along with the U.S. Consumer Financial Protection Bureau, or CFPB, sued Navient over allegations the company abused borrowers by taking shortcuts to boost its own bottom line. Navient has denied the allegations.

The withdrawal of the Obama administration guidelines could make Navient a more likely contender for that contract, government officials said. Navient shares moved higher after the government released DeVos' decision around 11:30 a.m. New York time. Navient stock ended up almost 2 percent.

The Obama administration vision for how federal loans would be serviced almost certainly meant the feds would have to increase how much they pay loan contractors to collect monthly payments from borrowers and counsel them on repayment options. Already, the government annually spends around $800 million to collect on almost $1.1 trillion of debt. DeVos, however, made clear that her department would focus on curbing costs.

"We must create a student loan servicing environment that provides the highest quality customer service and increases accountability and transparency for all borrowers, while also limiting the cost to taxpayers," DeVos said.

With her memo, DeVos has taken control of the complex and widely derided system in which the federal government collects monthly payments from tens of millions of Americans with government-owned student loans. The CFPB said in 2015 that the manner in which student loans are collected has been marred by "widespread failures."

DeVos' move "will certainly increase the likelihood of default," said David Bergeron, a senior fellow at the Center for American Progress, a Washington think tank with close ties to Democrats. Bergeron worked under Democratic and Republican administrations over more than 30 years at the Education Department. He retired as the head of postsecondary education.

During Obama's eight years in office, some 8.7 million Americans defaulted on their student loans, for a rate of one default roughly every 29 seconds.

Former Deputy Treasury Secretary Sarah Bloom Raskin worked on student loan policy during the latter years of the Obama administration, in part over concern that borrowers' struggles were affecting the management of U.S. debt. DeVos' decision to reverse some of her work "with no coherent explanation or substitute" effectively means that the Trump administration is placing the welfare of loan contractors above those of student debtors, she said.

In a statement Tuesday, Illinois Attorney General Lisa Madigan, who is suing Navient, agreed: "The Department of Education has decided it does not need to protect student loan borrowers."



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EVENT PREVIEW

Entertainment and media mixer

CSULB students will have the opportunity to network with top companies in the industry.

By Luke Ramirez
Assistant Sports Editor

Blizzard Entertainment, Live Nation, United Talent Agency; all of these businesses and more will be present at the Career Development Center's Media and Entertainment Industry Spotlight Series on Thursday from 3-5 p.m. at Brotman Hall 250.

"This is the second time we have done media entertainment as part of the series," said Daniel Carlos, Internship and Job Development Specialist at the CDC. He and his colleague, Michelle Gomez, planned the event and invited the participating companies.

"The reason we brought it back is [because of] the demand and the interest that we know students have," Carlos said. "That's the whole point of our industry spotlights, to 'spotlight' those industries that don't get the type of attention at things like job fairs."

Students of all departments are encouraged to come and network with representatives of some major employers in the entertainment industry. One of the guest speakers will be a Manager of Public Relations for Blizzard Entertainment, a video game developer and publisher based in Irvine.

"Blizzard will be talking about how they start to promote a new video game that is coming out and what that looks like from beginning to end," Carlos said.

A manager of Talent Acquisition for Live Nation and the chief administrative officer for United Talent Agency will also be on hand to talk about what role talent agents play in the entertainment industry.

Unfortunately, if you have not yet RSVP'd for the event, you will not be able to sit in on the presentation these companies have prepared as the list filled with students very early on. What students can still be a part of is the networking mixer that will follow.

"Having the open Q&A and the networking mixer is going to be a unique experience for our students," Carlos said. "Game Show Network is working on revamping a new internship program, so their [sic] HR reps are going to be here to talk our students about that."

The mixer will be a great opportunity for CSULB students looking to get their foot in the door as well as for the potential employers listed above who, according to Carlos, seem to be looking to hire right away.

"I think the element of hearing from people who are in the industry right now, getting their insight on what they see is successful and what is changing in the industry [will be of value to students]," he said.

For more information about the event visit careers.csulb.edu.

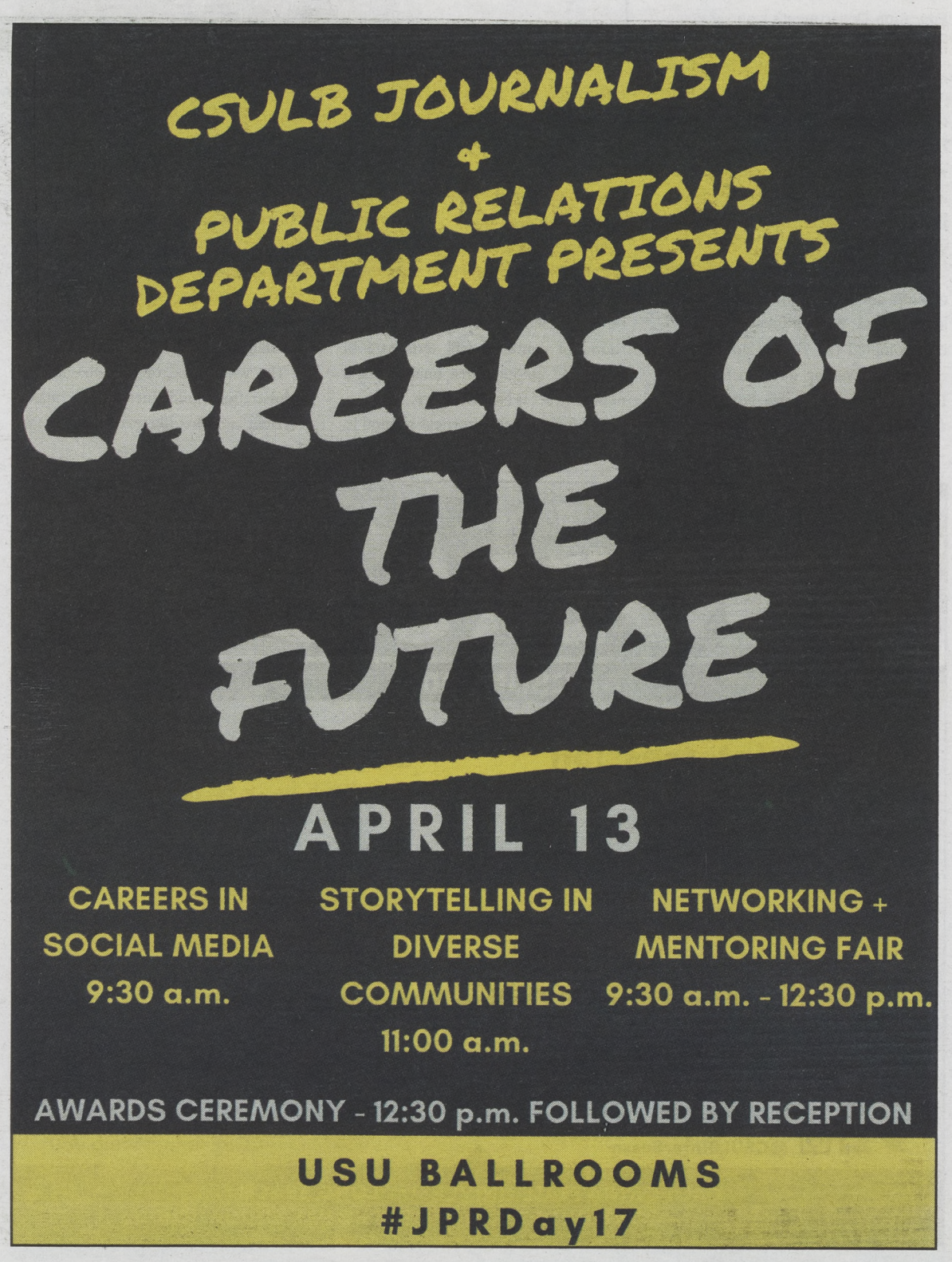


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COLUMN

Surviving and thriving at Coachella

What to expect, and how to deal with it.

By Ammi Ruiz
Staff Writer

College students ready to dance and run around the desert at the Coachella Valley Music and Arts Festival this weekend (or next), I hope you make your time there worth the hundreds of dollars you have undoubtedly spent in preparation for it.

I was fortunate enough to plan my first Coachella trip in 2016 with a few friends who had been there the previous year, and I'm happy to say I had an awesome time.

As great as my experience was, there are several not-so-great aspects to consider when you're spending three full days camping on the festival grounds.

Here's what you can expect:

Dehydration.

Don't let it happen to you. The quickest way to spoil your festival experience is with a trip to the medical tent. It's going to be crazy hot and dry. What won't be dry, are the hundreds of sweaty bodies dancing all around you. If you plan on becoming one of those sweat machines, be sure to take in as much as you put out. Especially when inebriation is a factor, it's incredibly important to keep drinking — water, that is. Be sure to pack a refillable water bottle, and keep it with you at all times. There are plenty of filling stations spread throughout the camp, so don't waste money on bottled water.

Long lines.

Whether you're going to the bathroom or getting a slice of pizza, you're going to find yourself standing in line several times a day. The worst lines will most likely be the ones to the shower stations. Unless you plan on taking one of those portable showers, bathing with water bottles or just fully committing to being a desert dirtball, wake up early to avoid waiting in line for an hour.

Port-a-potties.

It's not the most glamorous situation. Thousands of people will be using the same mobile toilets you're going to be using. This was definitely the worst part of my time there. You'll see. Just try not to touch anything, bring your own toilet paper, and I shouldn't have to tell you this part, but wash your hands.

First come, first serve.

You can't save a camping spot for anyone. If you want to stay together, arrive together. Otherwise, good luck meeting up with friends once you're there. The camping site is huge, and you'll probably be busy getting to know the people next to you.



Erik Voake

Coachella goers released balloons on day three during the second weekend of the 2016 festival.

Crazy weather.

It's going to get as hot as you would expect it to get under the sun in Indio, CA. You will sweat, even if all you're doing is sitting on a folding chair under the shade with a miniature battery-powered fan blowing in your face. As evening approaches, the temperature will definitely drop and it may get windy. Friday night of my weekend there, it looked like a tornado hit the campgrounds.

Find out what the weather will be like before you arrive, and pay attention to weather alerts on your phone once you're there.

Oh yeah, that reminds me.

No phones.

You might survive Coachella but your phone won't. I highly recommend purchasing a portable cell phone charger, which can be relatively inexpensive. You may also be inclined to visit the mobile phone charging stations located on the campgrounds.

As much as you're going to want to capture every moment of your time there, try to minimize your cell phone use. Post a picture or two on social media (if you absolutely must), record the artists you're most stoked to see, and then put your phone away and really be mindful of the fact that you're at Coachella while other people are wishing they were.

Yes, you spent $399 on a general admission ticket plus all of the other expenses, and you'll have to endure the gross bathrooms and the eternal lines. But, if all goes well, like it did for me, you won't look back and remember the lousy parts.

You'll remember the road trip there with your friends, the palm trees, and the purple and orange sunsets behind the mountains.

You'll remember your crazy camping neighbors.

You'll remember dancing like you've never danced before while you're favorite band is playing in the background, or maybe a band you're hearing for the first time.

So drinks lots of water, have an epic time and please, take me with you.

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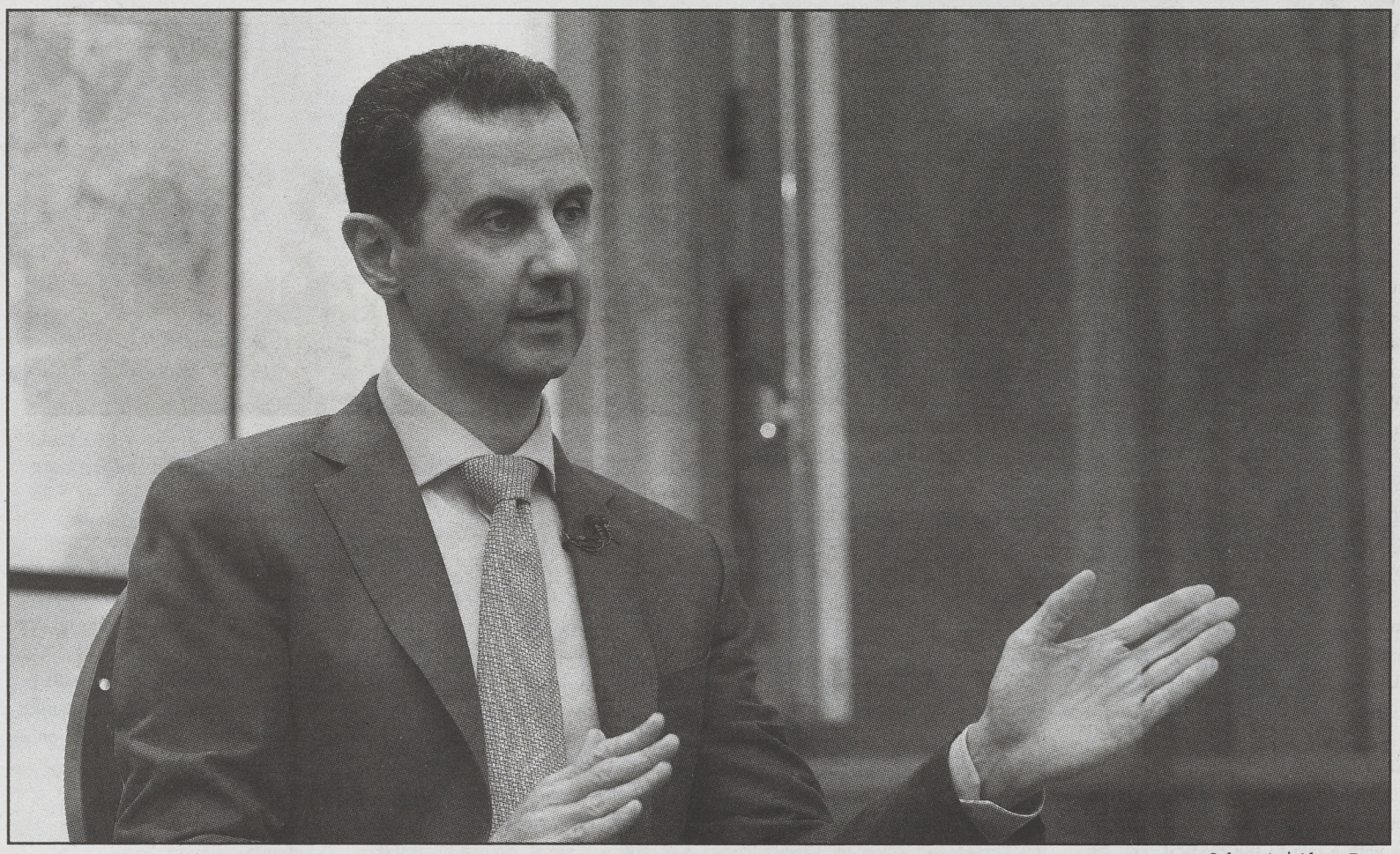
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SYRIA

Trump bombs Syria, turns his back on refugees

U.S. airstrike could cause more harm than good.

By Jorge Paniagua
Contributing Writer



Salampix | Abaca Press

Syrian President Bashar al-Assad in Damascus, Syria, on February 10. Assad recently appeared to be in his strongest position in years, but a suspected chemical changes everything.

For those unaware, the U.S. military attacked a Syrian government airfield with nearly 60 Tomahawk missiles last Thursday.

The reason for the attack: President Donald Trump's attitude toward Syria "changed" after coming to find that the Syrian president, Bashar Al-Assad, used chemical weapons against Syrian civilians – many of whom were children. As reported in an article by Alexander Smith for CNBC, Eric Trump said his father was "deeply affected" by the images of children being "sprayed down by hoses to keep their skin from burning."

According to an article for The Guardian by writers Martin Chulov and Kareem Shaheen, at least 70 people were killed after being exposed to a toxic gas which was, presumably, dropped from warplanes in northwestern Syria. Footage of Syrian children suffocating after the gas attack went viral across social media platforms — which is where Trump, more than likely, witnessed what had actually occurred in the conflicted Middle Eastern nation.

Trump's attack on Assad's regime was praised by his supporters, and even some of his critics, for finally taking the initiative to directly strike Syrian forces. During former President Barack Obama's term, the U.S. merely assailed the Islamic State rather than the actual government.

Yet, we must realize the hypocrisy of Trump and his administration. If our president truly wanted to help Syrian civilians, he'd provide refuge and freedom for them here in the U.S. — not increase violent military activity in Syria.

Furthermore, it's necessary to understand that our president isn't taking the steps necessary to end the Syrian conflict but may, both directly and indirectly, worsen matters.

As much as you may not want to, take a look back at what was said during Trump's presidential campaign last year. The then-presidential candidate frequently denounced the idea of the U.S. being an interventionist nation in the international realm of affairs ("America First" should ring several bells).

For instance, last month U.S. Ambassador Nikki Haley voiced the Trump administration's interests to a small group of reporters by saying, "You pick and choose your battles and when we're looking at this, it's about changing up priorities and our priority is no longer to sit there and focus on getting Assad out."

Keep in mind, Trump has always been well aware of the kind of atrocities Assad has committed against the Syrian people since the conflict began in 2011. For example, the non-governmental organization Syrian Network for Human Rights reported that the Syrian regime had dropped nearly 13,000 barrel bombs in 2016 alone. The strikes resulted in a devastating total of 653 deaths — 166 children and 86 women.

Meanwhile, the Syrian war furiously progressed and Trump was passionately advocating for a ban on Syrian refugees throughout his 2016 campaign. From the very beginning of his campaign, Trump threatened to send any destitute refugees who legally migrated to the United States back to their war-stricken homeland. "I'm putting the people on notice that are coming from Syria," said Trump in a September 2015 rally, "that if I win, if I win, they're going back, they're going back — I'm telling you."

Now, is Trump breaking his apathetic campaign promise of barring refugees from entering the country by attacking Syria directly? No; however, his latest intervention in the Middle East reeks of deceitfulness.

Let's be completely realistic here — Trump bombing a single Assad-regime air base isn't going to provide any significant help for the innocent Syrian civilians currently still living in the destroyed nation. It's obvious — Assad's atrocities against the Syrian people will surely continue. Moreover, the bloodshed, warfare and injustices will too — especially when those injustices are backed by a military powerhouse like Russia.

When asked why his ideology of "America First," which was overwhelmingly predominant throughout his presidential campaign, changed so drastically by Wednesday night, Trump responded by saying: "It crossed a lot of lines for me," Trump told reporters at the White House. "When you kill innocent children, innocent babies, babies, little babies, with a chemical gas that is so lethal, people were shocked to hear what gas it was, that crosses many, many lines, beyond a red line. Many, many lines."

The Syrian people have been subjected to air strikes, shootings, bombings, beheadings and chemical strikes for several years now. The "lines" should have been crossed long ago for Trump. We must understand that Trump is an offhand president — he went from campaigning against U.S. intervention in global affairs for over a year to suddenly deciding he wants to save Syria's "children" by bombing a single airbase. His plan is surely bound to fail.

Trump needs to recognize that the Syrian civil conflict has evolved into a deadly proxy war with many powers at play. According to Business Insider, what once began as an issue between Assad's government and rebels seeking to overthrow it — now includes Iranian troops, Hezbollah militants, a variety of militias, the Islamic State, Kurdish rebels, al-Qaeda, the Army of Islam, Russia and now — the United States.

Assad, by all means, must be removed from power. With that said, it must be done in a strategic and perceptive manner — one, which I'm convinced, cannot be executed by someone as impetuous as Trump or his incompetent administration.

If the president truly wants to help Syria's innocent civilians — he'd provide shelter for refugees here in the U.S. and refrain from further complicating Syria's proxy war. Syria's innocent civilians — he'd provide shelter for refugees here in the U.S. and refrain from further complicating Syria's proxy war.

Daily 49er

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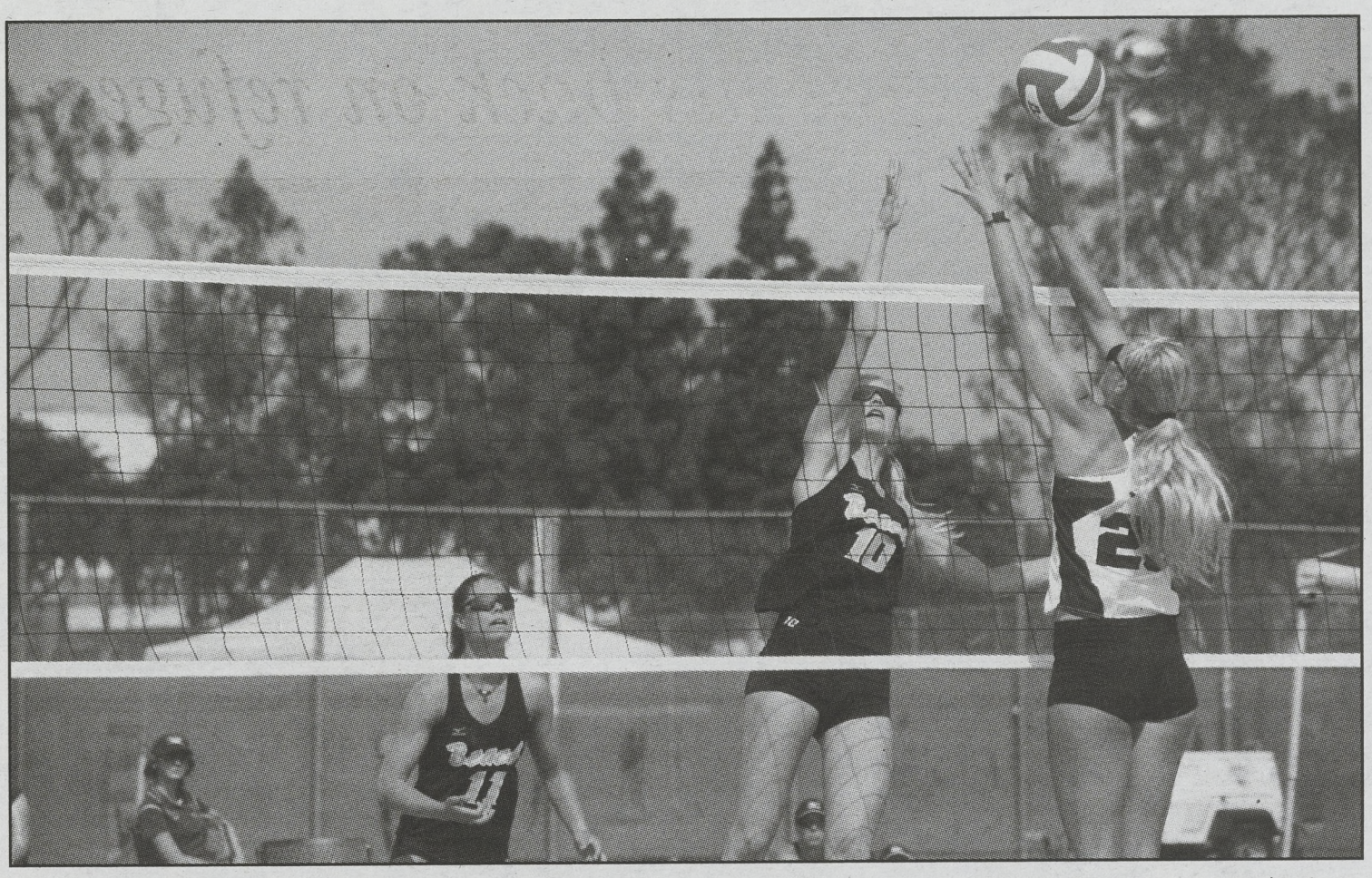
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Letters Policy: All letters and e-mail must bear the phone number of the writer and must be no more than 300 words. The Daily 49er reserves the right to edit letters for publication in regard to space.



Photos by Luke Ramirez | Daily 49er

Long Beach State's No. 1 pair of Nele Barber and Rachel Nieto has been key to the team winningest season in program history.

BEACH VOLLEYBALL

No. 5 Beach gets ready for two

Long Beach State beach volleyball takes on Cal Poly and Loyola Marymount.

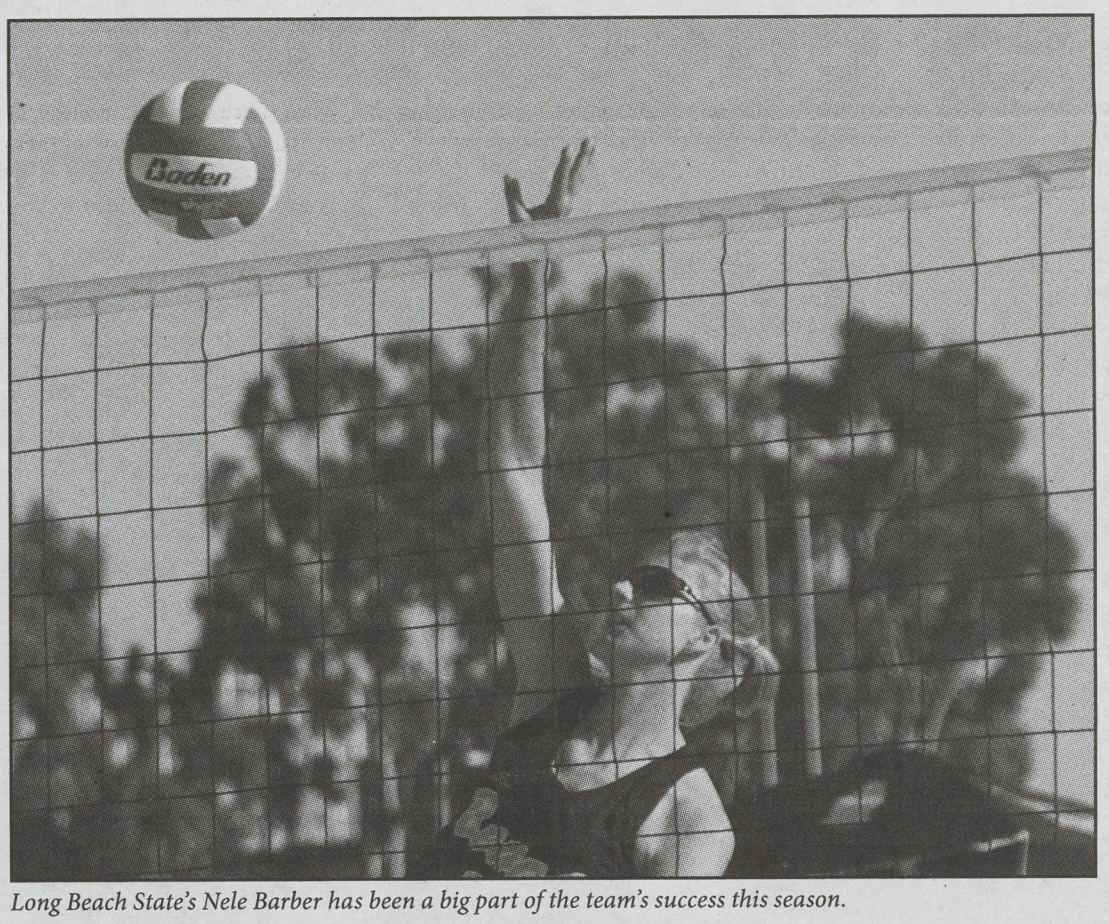
By Matthew Simon
Sports Editor

The fifth-ranked Long Beach State State volleyball team will head to Manhattan Beach today to take on Cal Poly and Loyola Marymount.

LBSU's win against Concordia on Saturday pushed the team to 21 total wins which is the most wins in team history since the 49ers recorded 20 wins during the 2012 national championship season.

The Beach will take on Cal Poly at noon and then will take on LMU at 3 p.m.

In their last match up against LMU March 16, LBSU swept them while its Cal Poly match-up was a thrilling 3-2 win April 2.



Long Beach State's Nele Barber has been a big part of the team's success this season.



HALEY TYGRET

WOMEN'S GOLF

Haley Tygret sets pace for LBSU

Long Beach State struggles at weekend tournament, sophomore leads team.

By Matthew Simon
Sports Editor

The Long Beach State women's golf team finished 17th in the 18-team field at the Silverado Showdown after the final round Tuesday.

LBSU was led by sophomore Haley Tygret, who posted a 76 to tie for 49th after finishing with an 8-over-par score of 224.

The team title was won by No. 3 Stanford, posted a 16-under 848, who bested No. 6 UCLA by nine shots.

Junior Jennifer Yu finished second for LBSU with a 76 in the final round, jumping 12 spots to finish tied for 60th with an 11-over-par 227.

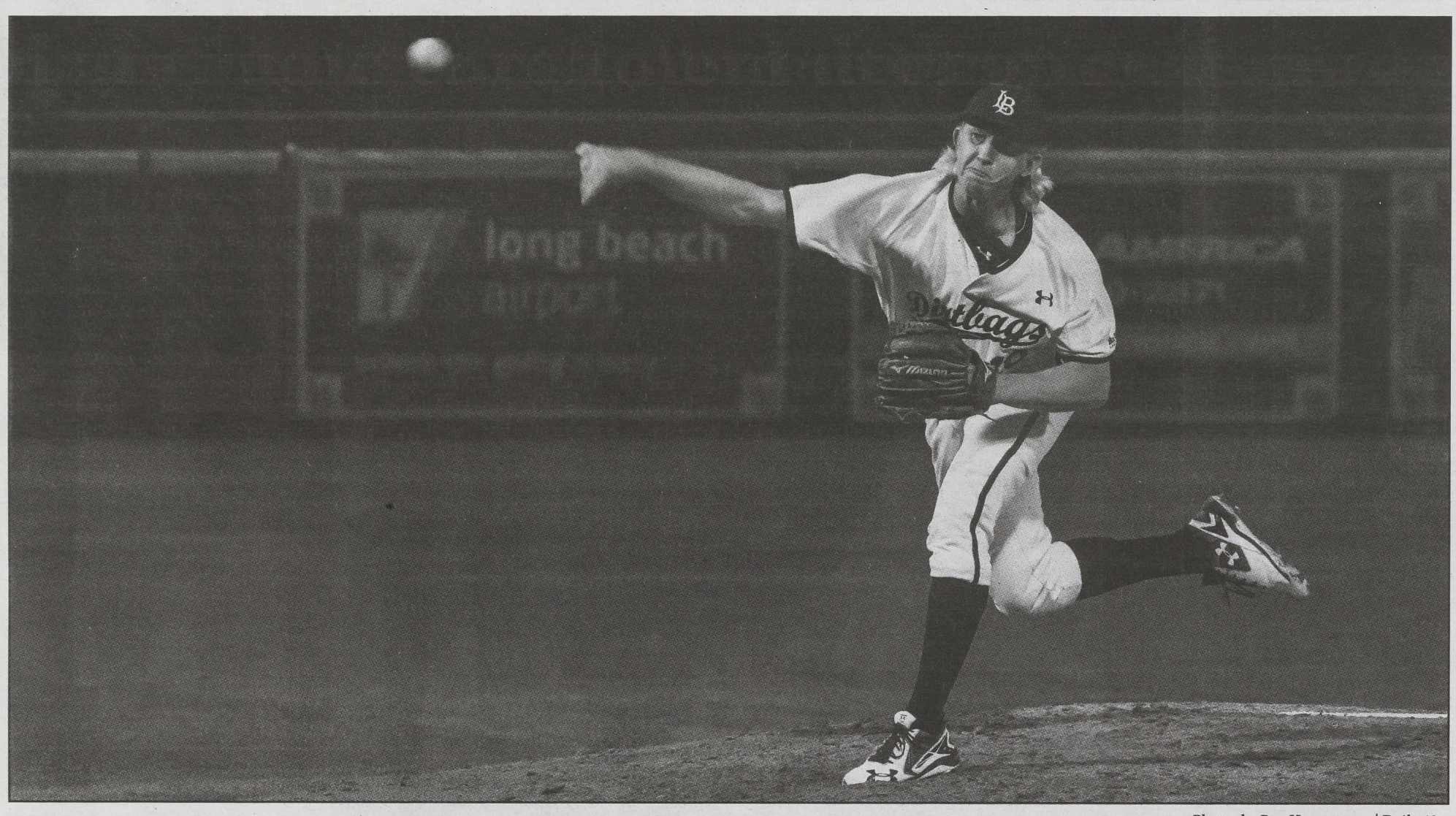
Rounding out LBSU's team were freshmen Holland Shourds and Maria Davis, who finished 64th and 83rd, respectively.

Sophomore Breann Fox saw her day end early on Tuesday after she had to withdraw from finishing for unknown reasons.

LBSU will be back in action Sunday when it travels to Riverside to compete in the 54-hole Big West Conference Championship at Oak Quarry Golf Course.

D49er SPORTS

Follow @49ERSPORTS for live tweeting of LBSU games.



Photos by Ben Hammerton | Daily 49er

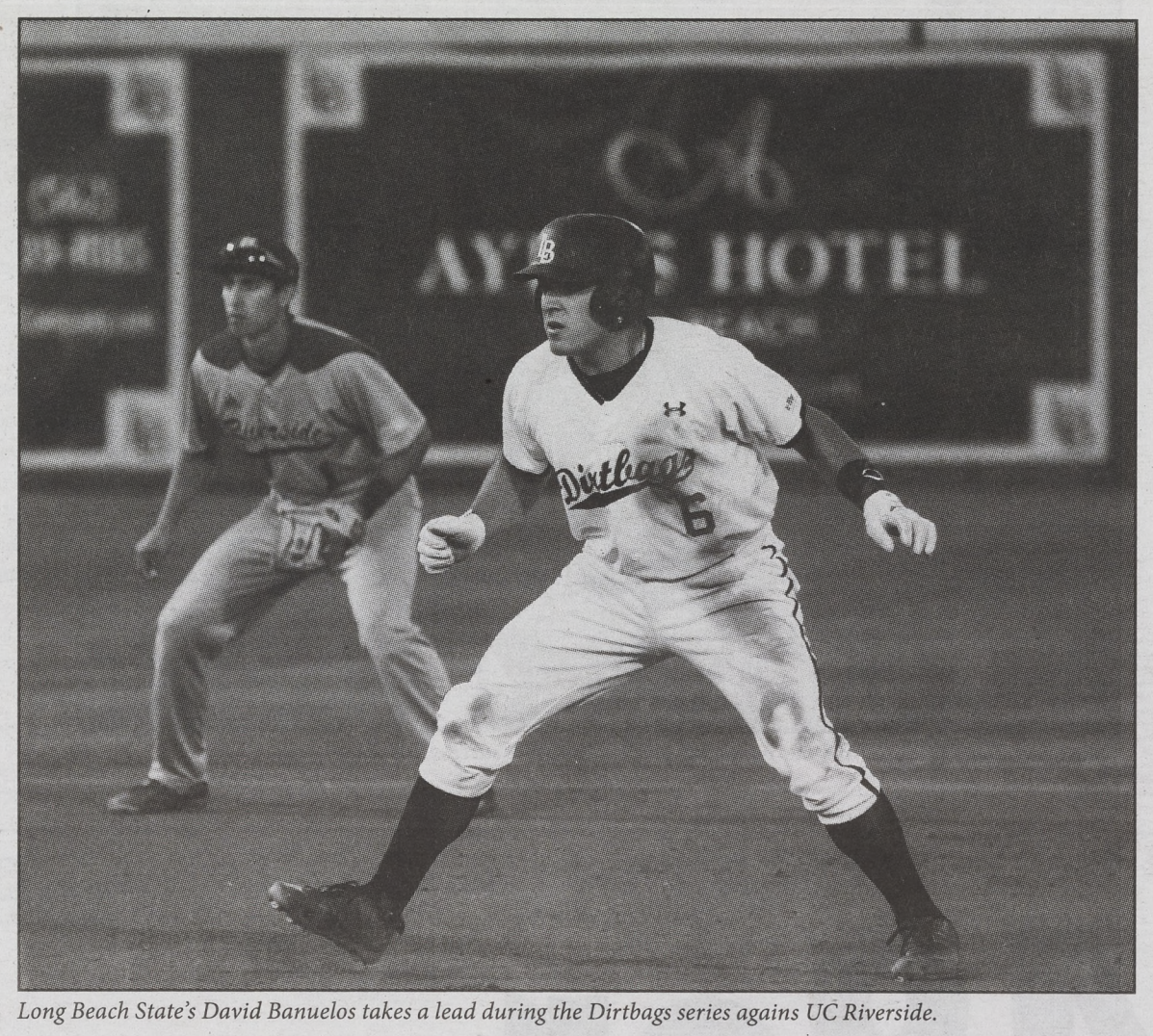
Long Beach State junior pitcher Darren McCaughan is looking to build on his 2016 Big West Pitcher of the Year award.

BASEBALL

Dirtbags check-in at No. 12

There are many factors that have been key to Long Beach State's turn-around since 6-9 start.

By Luke Ramires
Assistant Sports Editor



Long Beach State's David Banuelos takes a lead during the Dirtbags series agains UC Riverside.

Scoring runs in bunches and offering stingy pitching performances has been the winning formula for the Long Beach State Dirtbags, who have now scaled to No. 12 in Baseball America's top 25 ranking – the highest team's highest placement since being ranked fourth by Collegiate Baseball Newspaper in March of 2008.

Looking back to the low point in the season, the series in which LBSU was swept by Arizona State in March, reliable starting pitching began and ended with junior Darren McCaughan. The Dirtbags ace was struggling to build on his remarkable 2016 campaign, in which he won Big West pitcher of the year and didn't seem to be throwing with the same type of conviction.

Head coach Troy Buckley and his staff had trouble committing to pitchers that could round out their weekend rotation after McCaughan had a record of 6-9 heading into a midweek game on March 14 against then-No. 3 Texas Christian University.

LBSU (20-11, 5-1) exploded for seven runs against TCU while junior starting pitcher AJ Jones (1-1, 2.37 ERA) and the Dirtbags bullpen held the opposing offense scoreless and started the recent trend that has improved their record to 20-11.

The Dirtbags have gone on to outscore their opponents 96-50 since March 14, including a series in which they swept then No. 5 Cal State Fullerton (21-10, 5-1) for the first time since 2002. Since that series, McCaughan (3-2, 3.02 ERA), junior John Sheaks (4-1, 3.38), and senior Dave Smith (3-1, 0.62 ERA) have cemented themselves as the Dirtbags rotation.

The biggest factor that has allowed LBSU's arms to be more effective is the massive run support the Dirtbags have received in the last few weeks. The starters look much more confident when pitching with big leads and don't have to be so finicky with their opponents, knowing that the offense is firing on all cylinders.

Junior Lucas Tancas (.364 BA, .586 SLG, 5 HRs) has won two Big West player of the week awards and has been LBSU's best hitter to date. Junior third baseman Ramsey Romano (.359 BA, 1 HR, 23 RBIs) pushed a hitting streak to 20 games this season, and has locked down the hot corner defensively as well.

McCaughan finally had a showing strong enough to re-affirm him as one of the conference's premier pitchers, throwing eight scoreless innings and setting a new career high of 13 strikeouts against UC Riverside on April 7. LBSU scored four runs in the first two innings of that game.

Another headline has been how tough the Dirtbags have been to beat at home, having won 12 of 13 games total and now nine in a row after the sweep of UCR. If LBSU can keep up their recent trends, Cal State Northridge is in big trouble. The Matadors visit Blair Field for a three game series against the red hot Dirtbags April 13-15.

FAST FACTS

KEY PLAYERS SO FAR

- Junior Darren McCaughan: 3-2, 3.02 ERA, 56.2 IP, 55 SOs, 0.89 WHIP.
- Junior Lucas Tancas: .364 BA, 1.018 OPS, 5 HRs, 17 RBIs
- Junior Ramsey Romano: .359 BA, 1 HR, 23 RBIs
- Senior Dave Smith: 3-1, 0.62 ERA, 29.0 IP, 15 SOs